

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION MINUTES**

December 21, 2015

The regular meeting of the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission was held on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 3:30 PM., at the Cumberland County Administration Building Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Present:

Penny Watson	Suzanne Merighi
Marianne Lods	Roy Kaneshiki
Ella Boykin	Merle Silver
Maria Cerda-Moreno	Yogesh Thakur
Freeholder Sheppard	

Matthew Pisarski, Assistant Planning Director
Jennifer Morgan, Recording Secretary

Guest: Barbara Holmes, Cumberland County Black Hall of Fame

Approval of Minutes – November 23, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes from November, 2015. Mr. Kaneshiki made a correction to page three stating the concert should be dedicated to Native Americans. Ms. Watson made a correction to the last line on the first page it should read “culture” not “cultural.” Ms. Moreno indicated on page two “there” needs to be changed to “their” under re-grant applications. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneshiki and passed unanimously. Ms. Lods abstained.

Special Request from the Cumberland County Black Hall of Fame – Barbara Holmes

Ms. Holmes is a board member for the Cumberland County Black Hall of Fame, the Black Hall of Fame is asking for assistance with paying for the rental fee at the Cumberland County College. Commission members received an email in their packet from Ms. Boykin explaining the request. The Black Hall of Fame sponsored its first Teen Talent Showcase in 2015 at the College and the College waived the rental fee, unfortunately the College cannot waive the \$423 rental fee in 2016. The showcase will take place on April 20, 2016 and it is open to the public. The showcase is held to raise funds for eight students to receive scholarships. Ms. Holmes said many different talents are showcased; signing, poetry, piano. Ms. Watson asked who picks the students that participate in the showcase, and Ms. Holmes replied that the high school teachers pick the students. Freeholder Sheppard commented that there is no winner or loser at the showcase. Ms. Holmes said there is not but they are working on ideas for the student that sells the most tickets to receive some type of award/gift. Ms. Boykin said all students receive a certificate of participation. Mr. Pisarski asked about attendance, and Ms. Holmes responded that a couple hundred people attended. Mr. Thakur suggested having the audience pay to vote for viewer’s choice award as a way to raise funds. Ms. Silver asked what the monetary value is for the scholarships, there are eight scholarships awarded at \$500 each. Two African American students are chosen from each high school in the county. Mr. Pisarski explained to Ms. Holmes that if the Commission approved funding that it would be a one-time award. Mr. Pisarski

thanked Ms. Holmes for attending the meeting and said he will let her know what the Commission decides. Several Commission members questioned why the college was now charging, and the thought was that enrollment is down and they no longer have the extra funding. A motion was made to approve the rental fee of \$423 by Ms. Lods. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silver and passed unanimously. Ms. Boykin abstained.

Lottery of 2016 Re-grantee Assignments

The “bowl” was passed around and everyone picked their liaison assignments. Mr. Pisarski commented that the liaison assignments will be included in the re-grantee award letters. Mr. Thakur asked for contact information for his liaison assignments; Mr. Pisarski will get him the information.

Ms. Merighi – Clay College, Levoy Theatre, CHABA

Ms. Moreno – Bridgeton Main Street, Gallery 50, Temple Vision

Ms. Lods – Bridgeton Recreation, Gateway CAP, Upper Deerfield Historical Commission

Ms. Silver – Cumberland County Library, Millville Army Air Field Museum, Mauricetown Historical Society

Ms. Boykin – City of Vineland, Jewish Federation, Vineland Regional Dance Co.

Ms. Watson – Bayshore Center, Puerto Rican Festival, Off Broad Street

Mr. Kaneshiki – Cumberland Players, Lenni Lenape, Millville Historical Society

Mr. Thakur – Boys & Girls, Seabrook Buddhist, Friends of Bridgeton Library

Mr. Garrison – Vineland African American, Barn Studio, New Life Alliance, Harvest Fest.

C & H Commission Logo Design Contest – Presentation and Judging

Commission members received in the packet the entries for the logo design. Commission members talked about the different designs and ideas. A majority of the Commission liked #8. After discussing the different designs Ellen Gavin’s design was picked (#8). It was suggested to blend #8 and #6 together. Mr. Pisarski said the entry form was clear stating the design could be changed by the Commission. A motion was made to approve Ms. Gavin’s design to receive the award by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously. Mr. Pisarski will contact Ms. Gavin and ask her if she would like to make any changes to the design. It was suggested to come up with several variations and colors of the logo.

2016 Officers’ Slate and Nomination

Ms. Watson, Mr. Garrison and Mr. Thakur were on the nominations committee. Ms. Watson and Mr. Garrison asked Mr. Thakur to be the secretary. Mr. Pisarski will make a new directory with Commission member’s information. A motion was made to approve the slate of officers by Ms. Merighi. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moreno and passed unanimously

Mr. Kaneshiki – Chair

Ms. Silver – Vice Chair
Ms. Moreno – Treasurer
Mr. Thakur - Secretary

Approval of 2016 Meeting Dates

Commission members received in the packet the 2016 meeting dates. November will be moved to Monday the 21st and December will be moved to Wednesday the 21st. A motion was made to approve the 2016 meeting dates by Mr. Kaneshiki. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lods and passed unanimously. January's meeting will take place at the Barn Studio.

Cumberland Mall Display - Update

The ribbon cutting took place December 19th. The display was a great success. The design is made from paper and held up with pushpins. The Mall would like additional pieces in the Mall; they are letting the Commission put things up in the hallway by the mall office and other locations in the Mall. Mr. Pisarski would like the Tourism Council to take the lead on the different displays at the Mall.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Merighi attended Gallery 50's holiday event and Bridgeton's Festival of Lights. Vineland Regional Dance Company will be at Cumberland County College performing The Nutcracker.

Tourism Advisory Council Comments – Kimberly Gauntt

Postponed until next meeting.

Other Old/New Business

Ms. Lods said New Jersey State Council on the Arts and Art C have partnered with the Riverfront Center for a major photography show in September of 2016. Ms. Lods commented that shopping in the arts district is the best it has been in the past six years.

Mr. Kaneshiki asked if Millville Historical Society was new, Mr. Pisarski said they are not new but they did not apply in 2015 for a regrant.

Ms. Watson said she read an article that the Noyes Museum is moving, Mr. Pisarski said SJCA is moving into Kramer Hall at Stockton in Hammonton and Noyes will also be in Kramer Hall with SJCA.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Senate President Sweeney regarding the member representation of the NJ State Council on the Arts and the NJ Historical Commission. Susan Gogan from WheatonArts received a call from the chair of NJ State Council on the Arts stating South Jersey is underrepresented and there are two open seats and they are looking for nominations. The Commission needs to come up with a short list to give to Senator Sweeney's office. A committee needs to be formed so a list can be sent to the Senators office. Ms. Lods, Ms. Merighi, Mr. Kaneshiki and Freeholder Sheppard will be on the committee. Mr. Pisarski will contact Susan Gogan and see if she has any ideas.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Boykin. The motion was seconded by Ms. Merighi and passed unanimously.